



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

Date: December 28, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 28, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 5:00 pm. Weather conditions were partly cloudy with calm winds and light sprinkles throughout the day. Temperatures ranged from 39°F in the morning to 53°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was no rain.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with grading, spreading and spraying of topsoil in the vicinity of the Northeast Peninsula, the laying of a brick ramp along the Southeast Channel inlet, installation of PVC irrigation lines along the Northeast and Northwest Peninsulas, planting of pickleweed in the berm, and loading of construction debris near the Tide Gates. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:10 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members are present in the Staging Area.

6:30 am. Biological monitor conducts initial assessment. There is very little water in the Basin, a Snowy Egret flies toward the Southeast Channel. Two black phoebes are seen near the edge of the East Basin. Several gulls fly overhead, but do not land.

7:00 am. Biological monitor gives the bio-awareness training focusing on overall wildlife awareness with special attention to Monarch butterflies.

7:25 am. Workers begin installing pickleweed in the berm. One Yellow-Rumped Warbler is perched on the silt fence then flies to a nearby tree. One Western Gull flies north, but does not land.

7:45 am. One Black Phoebe is seen in the East Basin. An American Crow is perched at the top of the street lamp along Oxford and Washington. Three American crows perch on powerlines above the Construction Trailers.

8:00 am. Biological Monitor walks to the Northeast Peninsula. A Western Gull flies north. Two American crows are drinking water at the base of Stormwater Inlet. American Crows are perched on light posts along Washington. A gull flies across the Basin heading north.

8:20 am. A male Anna's Hummingbird is perched on one of the pines near the tide gates. An American Crow lands on the Northeast Peninsula. One Black Phoebe is perched on the silt fence near the Southeast Channel. Construction crews load fencing onto tractor at the East Basin entrance.

8:46 am. An Anna's hummingbird is perched on one of the pines near the tide gates, then flies northwest.

9:10 am. Four American crows are on Northwest Mudflat near a vacant tiller. A Black Phoebe is perched on dried tumbleweed in the East Basin.

9:30 am. Construction crew digs trenches for irrigation along the North Peninsula.

10:00 am. A Least Sandpiper is feeding in the East Basin. A Black Phoebe flies into the East Basin. A Yellow-Rumped Warbler flies from the East Basin to the Central Basin.

10:45 am. A worker is now at the edge of the East Basin installing markers. Another worker is hauling rocks from the East Basin to a staging area towards the Southeast Channel.

11:00 am. A female Yellow-Rumped Warbler is feeding in the Southeast Channel then flies north. A Say's Phoebe is nearby.

11:15 am. Two Killdeer feed in the Central Basin. A male and female Yellow-Rumped Warblers feed in the Southeast Channel.

11:30 am. A Yellow-Rumped Warbler is seen by the pines near the Tide Gates.

11:45 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:30 pm. Construction resumes. Tractors are digging lines for irrigation in the North mudflat. A tractor is grading in the East Basin.

1:00 pm. Two Killdeers and a Least Sandpiper feed in the East Basin. A generator has been pumping water all day near the Tide Gates. An American Crow is perched on powerlines near Northeast peninsula.

1:25 pm. One Yellow-Rumped Warbler is seen at the south end of the Southeast Channel. A Black Phoebe is perched on a fence nearby.

1:40 pm. A male and female Yellow-Rumped Warbler are perched on the fence near the East Basin. A Least Sandpiper is in the water. Two Black Phoebes are flying between the silt fence and the water about 50ft from an active tractor in the East Basin. They move when the shadow of the tractor nears them. Two killdeer walk in the Basin from south to north.

1:55 pm. A male Yellow-Rumped Warbler and a Killdeer are in the East Basin. A Yellow-Rumped Warbler lands along the south side silt fence of the Basin. A second Killdeer bathes in the water. A Black Phoebe comes in from Admiralty Way and perches on a silt fence.

2:12 pm. Say's Phoebe and Black Phoebe are perched in silt fence near the Southeast Channel. A Yellow-Rumped Warbler feeds on north side of the channel. A Least Sandpiper is on the north side of the channel.

2:46 pm. Four Killdeer feed in the East Basin. An American crow flies north but does not land. Two Yellow-Rumped Warblers fly into Central Basin, then perch on silt fence.

3:00 pm. Two Black Phoebes and one Say's Phoebe are on the north end of the East Basin. Two Yellow-Rumped Warblers are in the plant staging area near the bike path.

3:52 pm. The crew begins to leave for the day. One Black Phoebe flies south across Basin. There are still crews working on the irrigation piping at the Northwest Peninsula, planting on the berm, and working on the Tide Gates.

4:15 pm A Yellow-Rumped Warbler is in the staged plants by the Construction Trailer. Three Ring-billed Gulls fly overhead heading south. A second set of three gulls fly over.

4:50 pm. Work ends for the day.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No monarch butterflies were observed during the day. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows, black phoebes, and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. No waterfowl was observed today.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
5. Wildlife activity for today consisted flyovers early in the morning, and of smaller birds wading within the puddles and mudflats of the East Basin. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 28, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 28, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	One individual near Southeast Channel
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin; especially feeding in and adjacent to muddy areas
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch and in trees throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Two individuals observed in trees near Tide Gates

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Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Several individuals in East Basin
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Several individuals feeding in East Basin



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

Date: December 29, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 29, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 5:00 pm. Weather conditions were mostly clear. Temperatures ranged from 46°F in the morning to 55°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was no rain.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with grading, spreading and spraying of topsoil in the vicinity of the Central Basin, the laying of a brick ramp along the Southeast Channel inlet, installation of PVC irrigation lines along the Northeast and Northwest Peninsulas, planting of pickleweed in the berm, loading of construction debris near the Tide Gates, and site surveying by LA County. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:10 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members are present in the Staging Area.

6:30 am. Biological monitor conducts initial assessment. There is very little water in the Basin. Four ducks fly overhead but do not land. A Black-crowned Night-Heron is seen in the Central Basin. One female Mallard is seen in the Southeast Channel. The Black-crowned Night-Heron flies to the Southeast Channel. Three gulls fly north overhead but do not land.

7:00 am. Biological monitor gives the bio-awareness training focusing on overall wildlife awareness with special attention to Monarch butterflies.

7:20 am. Several Ring-billed Gulls fly overhead in groups of 2-3 heading north across the Basin but do not land.

7:45 am. A Western Gull and two Ring-billed Gulls fly north overhead. An American Crow is perched on a streetlight near the Northwest Peninsula. Planting continues from yesterday on the berm as does the work on the Tide Gate.

7:52 am. One Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on the fence along Washington. A second one is perched on a rock at the Northeast Peninsula. One Ring-billed Gull flies south. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies south across the Basin as a tractor starts moving. Tractor work begins at the south end of the East Basin.

8:12 am. A Mourning Dove is perched on the powerlines along Washington Boulevard.

8:37 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies from across the Basin to the most eastern pines. A Black Phoebe is seen in the Central Basin. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers leave the pine trees. One American Crow flies from the east and lands on powerlines at Mildred and Washington. A Black Phoebe is perched on a silt fence near the Southeast Channel.

8:57 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is foraging along the north side of the Southeast Channel.

9:14 am. Six Killdeer are in the mud of the East Basin, unaffected by the tractor's noise.

9:25 am. A Great Egret is in the Southeast Channel about 50ft from the workers. They become aware of the egret, and it flies south out of the Basin. One Yellow-rumped Warbler feeds along the cliff side of the Southeast Channel.

9:40 am. Workers begin grading along the south side of the Central Basin, they are careful in avoiding the pines east of the Tide Gates. Several Yellow-rumped Warblers are perched in the trees near the tide gates.

9:55 am. A Say's Phoebe is perched on the powerlines near the Stormwater Inlet. A Black Phoebe and a Yellow-rumped Warbler are in the East Basin.

10:11 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the trees on the south side of the Central Basin. An idled tractor is nearby.

10:30 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is seen by the pines near the east of the Tide Gates and flies into the Central Basin.

10:41 am. A Black Phoebe is perched in a fence that is being removed and flies to the next post as crews get closer. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the Central Basin. There are two Killdeer remaining in the East Basin.

10:54 am. An American Crow is near the worksite at the Southeast Channel. A Black Phoebe is perched on the silt fence. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is seen on a rock pile next to the Pump House.

11:10 am. A Black Phoebe is still near the trees by the Tide Gates despite tractor work. A second Black Phoebe flies into the area.

11:30 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:15 pm. Construction resumes. Three House Sparrows are in the staged plants behind the trailer. A Black Phoebe is perched in a stake between the eastern trees. One Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the trees. Two Black Phoebes and one Yellow-rumped Warbler are on the south side of the Central Basin. One Say's Phoebe is on the stake of a silt fence near the trees.

1:00 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is jumping along the path near the Tide Gates. An American Crow is on the powerlines at Mildred and Washington. Four Killdeer are in the mud of the north side of the East Basin.

1:10 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the staged plants on the north end of the Basin. Another is on the sandbags in the Southeast Channel.

1:20 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the Southeast Channel about 100ft from an active excavator.

1:38 pm. A Monarch butterfly is seen flying south across the West Basin. One American Crow is perched on powerlines at Mildred and Washington.

1:14 pm. Two Killdeer are sleeping in the mud of the East Basin. A Say's Phoebe flies quickly in and out of the East Basin.

2:25 pm. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers are near the Tide Gates. A Say's Phoebe and a Black Phoebe are on the south side of the Central Basin perched on a wooden stake. A Yellow-rumped Warbler brings food into the trees.

2:34 pm. Lots of activity by the trees far east of the Tide Gates with several Black Phoebes, Say's Phoebes and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

2:56 pm. A Black Phoebe and a Say's Phoebe play together on the south end of the Central Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the Southeast Channel feeding along the sides. Three American Crows fly in from the south and land on the Pump House.

3:30 pm. A total of five Killdeer are sleeping in the East Basin. One Black Phoebe perches on stake near the trees. A Black Phoebe, a Say's Phoebe and a Yellow-rumped Warbler are around the area of the trees.

3:46 pm. A Black Phoebe rests on the sandbags in the Southeast Channel. A Black-crowned Night-Heron is in the Southeast Channel and flies towards the East Basin.

4:00 pm. Several gulls fly south along the west side of the Basin but do not land. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies around the mud in the East Basin. A Least Sandpiper is feeding in the East Basin.

4:19 pm. Two Western Gulls fly overhead across Basin heading south but do not land. The Black-crowned Night-Heron heads back to the Southeast Channel but avoids the crew.

5:00 pm. Work ends for the day.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

One monarch butterfly was observed during the day. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows, black phoebes, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
4. Wildlife activity for today consisted flyovers early in the morning, and of smaller birds

wading within the puddles and mudflats of the East Basin and in the trees furthest east from the Tide Gates. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 29, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 29, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	One individual near Southeast Channel.
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin; especially feeding in and adjacent to muddy areas
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch and in trees throughout the Basin
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Several individuals in East Basin
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Several individuals feeding in East Basin
Black-Crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	One individual in the Central Basin in the am, Another in the Southeast Channel in the pm.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	One individual in the Southeast Channel.
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	On individual on powerlines.
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	One individual in the Southeast Channel.



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

Date: December 30, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 30, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:10 am and ending at 4:25 pm. Weather conditions were clear. Temperatures ranged from 41°F in the morning to 56°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was no rain.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with grading, spreading and spraying of topsoil in the vicinity of the East Basin, the laying of a brick ramp along the Southeast Channel inlet, installation of PVC irrigation lines along the Northeast and Northwest Peninsulas, planting in the berm and the Northeast Peninsula, surveying, removal of water piping, and concrete pouring at the Tide Gates, West Basin Mudflat, and the Southeast Channel. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:10 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members are present in the Staging Area.

6:20 am. Biological monitor conducts initial assessment. There is very little water in the Basin. A Black-crowned Night-Heron is wading in the south side of the Central Basin, and another is in the Southeast Channel. Three gulls fly overhead due north.

7:00 am. Biological monitor gives the bio-awareness training focusing on overall wildlife awareness yesterday's and this morning's sightings with special attention to Monarch butterflies.

7:10 am. Work begins. One American Crow is perched on a light post near the construction trailer. A Ring-billed Gull flies north. Another gull flies south. A Least Sandpiper is feeding on the East Basin. The Black-crowned Night-Heron is still by the Southeast Channel. A Black Phoebe is nearby in the mud.

7:45 am. Four Killdeer are seen in the west end of the East Basin.

8:02 am. A Least Sandpiper is in front of the Pump House. The Black-crowned Night-Heron has moved away from workers further down the channel then perches on the eucalyptus tree behind the Pump House. An American Crow flies overhead due east.

8:25 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on the fence in the Southeast Channel about 50ft from the workers. An American Crow perches on a dirt pile near the Southeast Channel then goes across to perch on an unused tractor. A second crow joins. Crews work on the north wall of the East Basin to remove the water pipeline. The Killdeer have moved further south away from the crews. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden post. Work on the Northeast Peninsula continues with digging. An American Crow flies into the east pines. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is feeding at the delta of the Southeast Channel. The surveying crew is working on the south side of the Southeast Channel.

8:55 am. Two American Crows fly in from the North and land on the east trees. A Black Phoebe is perched on a fence near the workers digging in the East Basin.

9:12 am. A Black Phoebe flies along the north side of the East Basin, the Black-Crowned Night-Heron is sleeping in the trees.

9:27 am. A Black Phoebe is in the East Basin. The cement pumping truck arrives and parks at the Tide Gates to begin cement work.

9:45 am. Two Canada Geese fly overhead due east, but do not land. One Say's Phoebe is perched on a root on the south end of the Central Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies from north end of the East Basin to the south end and perches on a wooden stake.

10:00 am. Removal of the piping begins. A Say's Phoebe and Black Phoebe are perched on wooden stakes near the East Basin and quickly fly away. A second Say's Phoebe is on the south end of the Southeast Channel. A Ring-billed Gull and an American Crow fly overhead, but do not land. Five Killdeer are seen in the mud of the East Basin.

10:19 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is feeding on the north edge of the Southeast Basin. A Black Phoebe is on the northern edge of the Southeast Basin about 40ft from a tractor, but quickly moves away. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is on the south end of the East Basin by a non-active tractor.

10:35 am. A total of eight Killdeer are seen in the East Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is seen in the Southeast Channel as workers come closer.

10:50 am. Two Monarch Butterflies are seen by the Pump House. One flew west, the other east. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers and a Say's Phoebe are perched on fence posts on the north side of the channel.

10:54 am. An American Crow is near the worksite at the Southeast Channel. A Black Phoebe is perched on the silt fence. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is seen on a rock pile next to the pumphouse.

11:00 am. Nine Killdeer are now spotted in the East Basin. Two American Crows fly from the west to the south side of the East Basin and land on the unused tractor.

11:20 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the dirt of the Southeast Channel by the active tractors. A Say's Phoebe lands on the roof of the Pump House. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is on the dirt pile on the north edge of the channel.

11:30 am. Crew breaks for lunch. A Say's Phoebe is seen on the south wall of the West Basin.

12:15 pm. Construction resumes.

12:30 pm. A Say's Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake near the Tide Gates. Nine Killdeer remain in the East Basin. Two Ring-billed gulls fly overhead. Two Black Phoebes are perched on stakes on the north edge of the East Basin. A Least Sandpiper is feeding in the mud of the south end of the East Basin. A large group of American Crows and Rock Pigeons circle overhead and land on the residential building along Admiralty Way. A Say's Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake in the Southeast Channel. The Black-Crowned Night-Heron remains in the trees behind the Pump House. Planting begins along the edge of the Northeast Peninsula.

1:00 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler and two Black Phoebes are in the East Basin. The Black-Crowned Night-Heron has left the trees. Work at the Tide Gates has stopped. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is on the south side of the East Basin.

1:13 pm. Three Black Phoebes are on the north edge of the Southeast Channel perched on wooden stakes. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is on the rocks in the Southeast Channel. Cement pouring begins for the boat ramp at the Southeast Channel.

1:30 pm. A Say's Phoebe and a Black Phoebe fly around the dirt piles at the East Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler and a Black Phoebe are near the Pump House.

1:45 pm. A Black Phoebe in the East Basin flies to the Stormwater Inlet.

2:00 pm. The Black-Crowned Night-Heron is seen in the Southeast channel, then flies into the eucalyptus tree. A Say's Phoebe, a Black Phoebe, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler fly between the sides of the delta of the Southeast Channel. Two Killdeer are seen in the East Basin.

2:20 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is on the south side of the East Basin. A Black Phoebe is seen perched on a wooden stake on the north side of the channel. Two American Crows are near the dirt piles on the north side of the channel. A Ring-billed Gull flies across the Basin heading north but does not land.

2:37 pm. A Least Sandpipe is in the mud of the south side of the East Basin. Cement pouring begins at the Northwest Peninsula. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched in the trees far east of the Tide Gates.

3:19 pm. A Say's Phoebe, Black Phoebe, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler fly around the north wall of the East Basin. Grading continues on the north side of the Southeast Channel.

3:39 pm. A Ring-Billed Gull flies overhead due south. A Black Phoebe is on the fence near the Northeast Peninsula. Four Killdeer are seen in the East Basin mud from the Northeast Peninsula.

4:00 pm. A Western Gull and two Ring-Billed Gulls fly south along the south side of the Basin but do not land. An Anna's Hummingbird is seen in the trees next to the Tide Gates.

4:25 pm. Heavy machinery has stopped. Biological Monitor leaves for the day. Site foreman is informed.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

Two monarch butterflies were observed during the day. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the late morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 11:00 am, with the exception of American Crows, Black Phoebes, Say's Phoebes, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late

afternoon.

3. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
4. Wildlife activity for today consisted flyovers early in the morning, and of smaller birds wading within the puddles and mudflats of the East Basin and in the Southeast Channel. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 30, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 30, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	One individual near Southeast Channel
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin; especially feeding in and adjacent to muddy areas
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch and in trees throughout the Basin
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Several individuals in East Basin
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Several individuals feeding in East Basin
Black-Crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	One individual in the Central Basin in the am, Another in the Southeast Channel in the pm
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several individuals overhead
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	One individual by tree near Tide Gates
Canada Goose	<i>Branta Canadensis</i>	Two individuals overhead



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Sunny Lee, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: December 31, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 31, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Sunny Lee, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 2:15p.m. Weather conditions during the day were clear with temperatures ranging from 43°F in the morning to a high of 64° in the afternoon.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with installing planting various plants in the center divider, planting pickleweed along the shoreline, grading, installing irrigation lines, and breaking down concrete forms for the boat ramp. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. The biologist arrived at the Basin. No birds were observed because it was still dark out.

6:30 am. The crew arrived at the layout yard. The biologist conducted a brief walkthrough of the work areas.

7:00 am. The biological monitor administered biological awareness training to a crew of 25 personnel.

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7:15 am. The crew began to place plants into the rock wall center divider within the Basin. Another crew began to place pickleweed along the shoreline of the northwest corner of the Basin. Irrigation lines were installed along the wall on the north side of the Basin. One Western Gull was observed flying overhead. Two American crows were observed perched on a utility pole adjacent to the layout yard.

7:40 am. A front loader moved trash debris from the layout yard to a dumpster in the northeast corner of the Basin. The crew compacted dirt along the northwest corner, and dismantling the sound barrier for the water pump located in the southwest corner. Four Western Gulls along with two Rock Pigeons and two Common Ravens were observed flying overhead.

8:30 am. The crew removed the concrete forms from the boat ramp. The crew removed the water pump after taking down the sound barrier in order to grade the area. One Black Phoebe was observed feeding in the northeast bank. Six Western Gulls were observed flying overhead. One American Crow was observed walking along the east channel.

9:10 am. A small excavator dug a trench along the wall in the west side of the Basin. Large water pump pipes were also dismantled and removed. The pipe connected to the sewer line was also dug up and removed. Fifteen Rock Pigeons were observed flying overhead. A Black Phoebe was observed flying through the Basin from the west side of the Basin.

10:00 am. The crew compacted dirt intermittently as the bulldozer graded the southwest corner of the Basin. The front loader brought sand from the layout yard to the southwest corner of the Basin. Planting activity within the Basin was still ongoing. Irrigation lines were being placed into the newly dug trench on the west side of the Basin.

11:00 am. The grading activity was ongoing in the southwest corner of the Basin. The pickleweed planting moved from the northwest corner to the north side of the Basin. Grading was halted when a Monarch Butterfly landed in the path of the bulldozer as it was grading. The butterfly was not disturbed by the ongoing activity. It flew off five minutes later; one Black Phoebe was observed flying across the Basin.

11:30 am. The crew took a lunch break.

12:00 pm. The crew returned to work. Two Western Gulls were observed flying overhead during the break.

1:00 pm. The crew completely removed all water pump pipes from the Basin. Planting and grading activities were ongoing. One Yellow-rumped Warbler was observed feeding along the west bank. One Western Gull was observed flying overhead.

1:45 pm. The crew finished the planting activities and watered the new placed plants. Grading activity continued in the southwest corner of the Basin. Irrigation lines were still being installed. Two Rock Pigeons and a Western Gull were observed flying overhead. The same Yellow-rumped Warbler returned the west bank to feed within the staged potted plants. It was 20 feet from construction but did not appear to be disturbed.

2:00 pm. The crew finished work for the day.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Least Terns, or Ospreys were observed today.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife has avoided foraging inside Basin entirely, due to soil dredging.
2. Birds utilizing the Basin did not appear to be disturbed by the ongoing activities.
3. One Monarch Butterfly was observed today. Work in the vicinity was ceased until the Monarch flew away from the area.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 31, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 31, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	2-3 individuals observed walking along the shoreline and perched on utility pole
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	3 individuals observed feeding and flying through the basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	1 individual observed feeding
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead



Figure 1. Photo facing southeast of crew working on the boat ramp.



Figure 2. Photo facing south of crew grading.



Figure 3. Photo facing east of crew planting picklweed.



Figure 4. Photo facing west of crew installing irrigation lines.



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith
John R. Ivanov, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Date: January 2, 2016

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 2, 2016 for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by John R. Ivanov, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:45 am and ending at 3:40p.m. Weather conditions during the day were partly cloudy, with temperatures ranging from 48°F in the morning to a high of 68°F. No measurable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with installing the tidal gate, dredging soil from the Basin, exporting contaminated soil, grading, drilling de-watering wells, building a rock cage foundation, and building forms for the boat ramp. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:30 am. The biological monitor arrived on site and an initial Biological Assessment begins. One adult Peregrine Falcon, five Western Gulls, one Ring-billed Gull, three California Gulls, and three American Crows were observed flying overhead. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers were foraging within the project site.

6:45 am. The biological monitor gave the bio-awareness training, emphasizing the need for caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife.

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7:10 am. Planting began on the Diversion Berm. Three Western Gulls, one California Gull, one adult Cooper's Hawk, and seven Rock Pigeons were observed flying overhead. One Yellow-rumped Warbler was foraging within the project site.

7:30 am. Crew began grinding the edges of the Parapet Wall along the northwest side of project site. Seven Western Gulls, eight California Gulls, five American Crows, and four Rock Pigeons were observed flying overhead.

7:50 am. Crew installed a grate to catch trash (trash rack) at an inlet along West Washington Blvd. One crew member watered the southwest corner of project site for dust control. Numerous California Horn Snails were observed throughout the site in suitable habitat. Ten American Crows, a European Starling, and five Cedar Waxwings were observed flying overhead.

8:16 am. Raccoon prints were observed at the west end of project site. Two Western Gulls, eight American Crows, and three Rock Pigeons were observed flying overhead. An Anna's Hummingbird and a Say's Phoebe utilized the project site.

8:26 am. The crew used hand tools, a back hoe, and a small bulldozer to dig at the eastern inlet. String-like green algae was observed within the channel growing on rocks. A Black Phoebe was observed foraging. A California Gull passed over head.

9:08 am. The crew used a backhoe along the west embankment for erosion control.

9:26 am. The crew continued installing an irrigation system along south side of project site. Eight American Crows were observed feeding on the western bank of the Basin.

9:48 am. Work continued on the Diversion Berm, irrigation system, inlet grate installation, and eastern channel inlet.

10:11 am. Grading and compactions using a small bulldozer attached with a goosefoot drum continued along western embankment.

10:30 am. American Crows continued to feed within the project site.

10:53 am. The crew installed silt fencing along the south embankment.

11:20 am. Grading continued near the pump house.

11:43 am. Crews began leaving the project site for lunch.

12:34 pm. Four House Finches, one American Crow, and approximately twenty-five Rock Pigeons were observed overhead. A Yellow-rumped warbler foraged within the project site. Crews returned from lunch.

12:58 pm. The crew placed small rock below a small inlet and installed silt fencing on north bank of Basin near West Washington Blvd.

1:18 pm. One Anna's Hummingbird and a Yellow-rumped warbler were present within the project site.

1:38 pm. The crew cleaned a pre-filter at the pump house. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet and an Orange-crowned Warbler were observed foraging in the pines near the tide gate.

1:58 am. The crew covered dirt mounds with tarps on south side of project site.

2:18 pm. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was observed foraging within the pines near the tide gate.

2:38 pm. The crew continued trenching for the irrigation system along southwest side of project site. One adult Peregrine Falcon was observed flying overhead.

2:58 pm. Silt fencing installation was completed around the Basin.

3:22 pm. Parking lot was cleaned of dirt by a small bulldozer with vacuum attachment. Workers began exiting project site.

Additional Observations

Of note were two visits by a Peregrine Falcon hunting over the project site.

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

Significant brown surface algae can be seen mostly in the Southeast Channel.

No monarch butterflies were observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows and gulls. Wildlife

activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.

3. No monarch butterflies or any other butterflies were observed today. The cooler temperatures likely contributed to no butterfly observations.
4. The tide gates were not opened today. Without the flushing of water through the Basin, floating algae significantly increased.
5. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, greater yellowlegs, and California gull. As winter continues, it is expected that winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
6. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
7. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 2, 2016.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 2, 2016		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1 individual observed flying overhead
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Regular flyovers observed over the Basin
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1 individual observed flying over the Basin
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Regular flyovers observed over the Basin
California Gull	<i>Larus californica</i>	Regular flyovers observed over the Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead

Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	2-3 individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2-3 individuals observed foraging around the Basin
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	1 individual observed around the Basin.
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the pines near the tide gate
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus caledula</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the pines near the tide gate
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Setophaga celata</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the pines near the tide gate
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed foraging around the Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Several individuals observed foraging around the Basin
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Several individuals observed foraging around the Basin



Photo facing northeast of planting on Diversion Berm.



Photo of trash rack install components being installed at an inlet along W Washington Blvd.



Photo facing southwest of crew wetting for dust control.



Crew using a back hoe along west embankment for erosion control.



Photo facing north of crew installing silt fencing.